

# BLOODWARS

OCTOBER 2003 ISSUE ELEVEN

MAGAZINE

The Magazine for Graffiti Writers & Street Lovers.  
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11\*  
issue

**Forward**

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Bloodwars is a Pdf Magazine. Print it out pass it along. Bloodwars intention is to expose the various forms and styles of Street Bombing and what ever else I find stimulating out in the world.

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22-24 | Ugo Gagné | [ugocrazy@hotmail.com](mailto:ugocrazy@hotmail.com)

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If you would like to contribute to Bloodwars (don't send files) first please send an email and I will get back to you. Submit photos of what you would like to see in Bloodwars: graffiti, stencil, sticker, or what jerks your head back for a second look. Social Commentary is welcomed.

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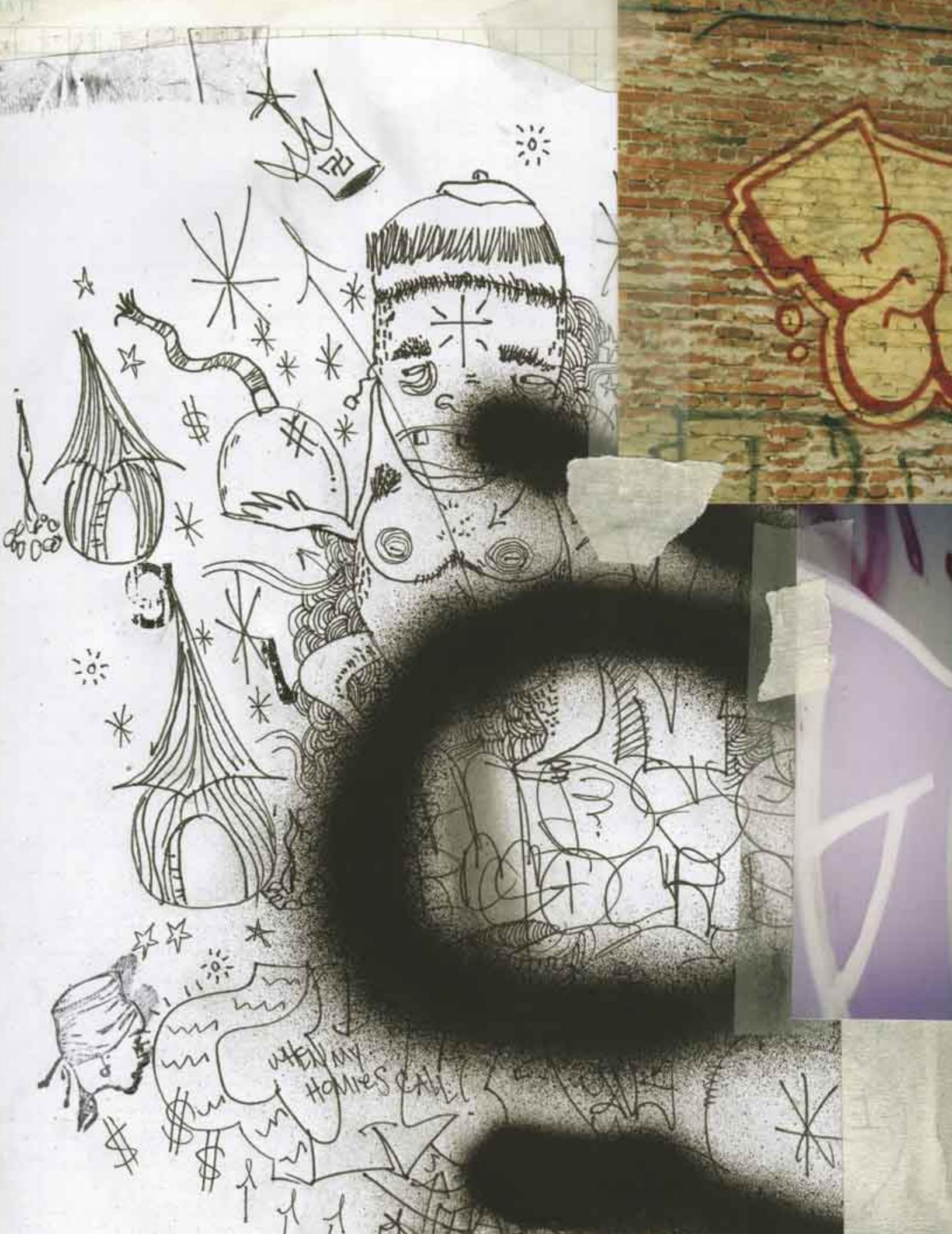
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**Text\*** Found graffiti newspaper articles.

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- Howard Aiken

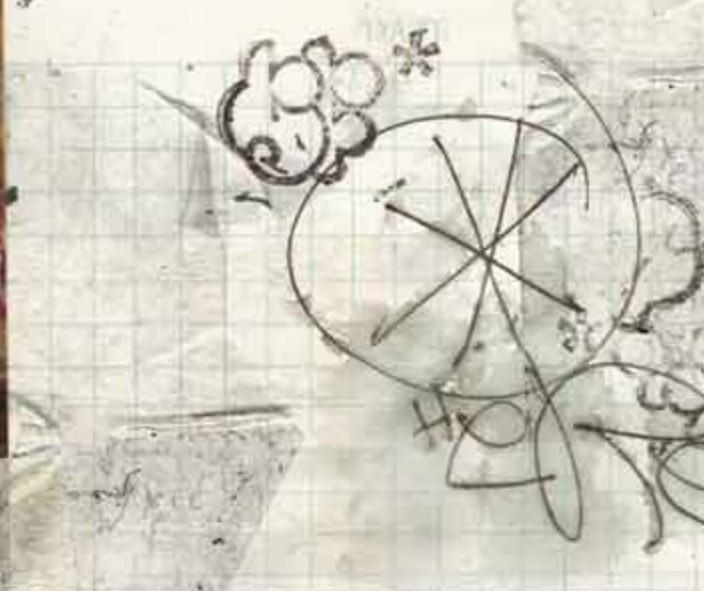
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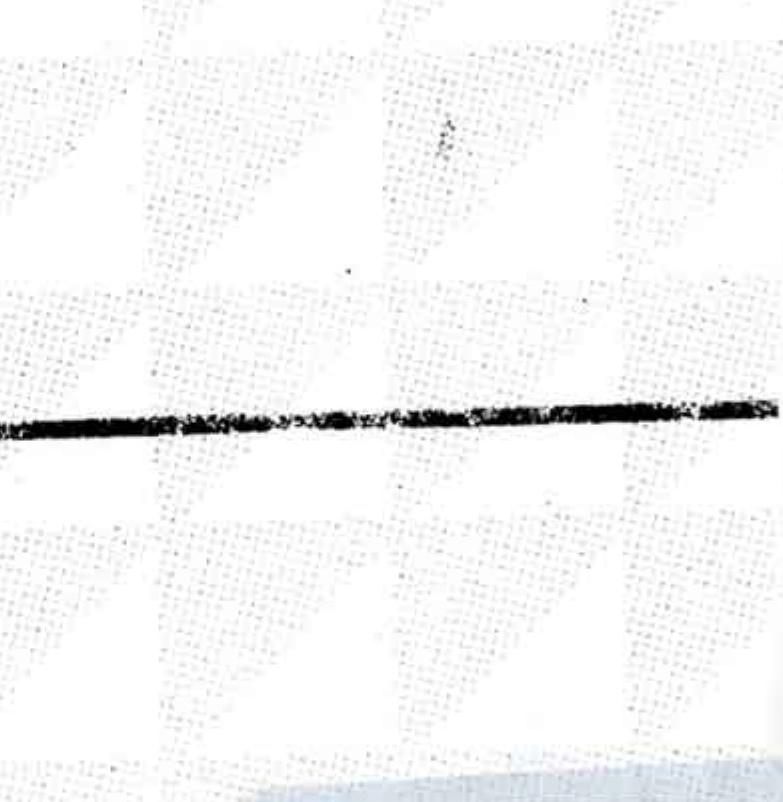
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"our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate.  
our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure.  
it is our light, not our darkness,  
that frightens us.  
we ask ourselves, who am I to be  
brilliant, gorgeous, talented and fabulous?  
actually, how are you not to be?  
you are a child of God. You're playing  
small doesn't serve the world.  
there's nothing enlightened about  
shrinking so that other people won't  
feel insecure around you.  
we were born to make manifest the glory  
of God that is within us.  
it's not in some of us, it's in everyone.  
and as we let our own light shine,  
we unconsciously give other people  
permission to do the same.  
as we are liberated from our own fears,  
our presence automatically  
liberates others."

-nelson madela's inaugural speech, 1994





## Sign, overpass vandalism jumps in winter



LUCI S. HOUSTON — MERCURY NEWS

The Interstate 880 exit sign for The Alameda/Highway 82 in San Jose is almost covered with graffiti, obstructing the wording and making the sign difficult to read.

# Freeway graffiti taggers pick up pace

BY CONNIE SKIPITARES  
Mercury News Staff Writer

More and more these days, Silicon Valley freeway signs are being turned into canvases for graffiti "taggers" who deface them so severely that it's hard to see what the sign actually says.

Maintenance crews have been kept busy removing graffiti this winter as the number of incidents reported to the California Department of Transportation in January and February increases — requiring workers to sandwich graffiti removal between storm cleanup.

According to Caltrans, there have been 16 reports of graffiti on freeway signs in the past six weeks, compared with five incidents in December and three in September. Officials say, however, that these statistics may not truly reflect the problem because many incidents go unreported.

The winter tagging, most of

Catching these kids is very difficult . . . in the middle of the night. **— CHP officer Shannon Seda**

ten done at night, baffles both Caltrans and law enforcement officials.

"Who knows why it happened more in the winter?" said Ray Fox, the Caltrans supervisor charged with collecting complaints and dispatching cleanup crews. "I assume that a bunch of kids just decided to get together and go out and do some tagging."

The nocturnal graffiti scrawling produces few arrests compared with the large number of incidents, law en-

forcement officials say.

"Catching these kids is very difficult," California Highway Patrol officer Shannon Seda said. "It happens in the middle of the night when there are no witnesses. How these kids figure out how to get up there, I have no idea. You know they're putting their lives in danger."

Taggers in Santa Clara County who are prosecuted — they usually receive community service hours and/or a bill for their damage — end up in the Anti-Graffiti Program run by San Jose. The program assigns community service hours to offenders and sends damage bills to them or their families.

Since January 1997, when a state law said cities could recover damages from those who deface property with graffiti, the city has billed 76 offenders, according to program coordinator Jaclin

See GRAFFITI, Page 2B





Taggers hitting more high-profile targets

# Freeway graffiti vandals busier

## ■ GRAFFITI

from Page 1B

Cordes.

Law enforcement officials say taggers are usually juveniles or young adults and roam in teams but are not gang members and usually are not violent. They crave widespread attention for their graffiti — which they consider to be "artwork" — and put it on highly visible freeway signs, overpasses and soundwalls, said Sgt. Matt Elvander of the San Jose Police Department's juvenile unit. Frequently seen monikers of local tagging crews include "ADS" (Artistically Damaging Cities) and "DYC" (Destroying Your Cities).

Street gangs tend to inscribe their monikers on property to mark their territory for the benefit of rival gangs, Elvander said. Gang graffiti usually stay in neighborhoods where gang members live.

The nocturnal scrawling produces few arrests.

Fox says Caltrans employs a number of measures to deter freeway sign taggers, including removing the catwalks around signs to foil easy access and installing sheet metal "hoods" with pointed projections around signs and "collars," or hoops, on posts.

A total of 120 incidents of freeway sign tagging were reported in Santa Clara County in 1997, according to Fox. Alameda County had 100. But San Francisco County reported only 18, and San Mateo County tallied 19, he said.

"Other areas do have the same problem; I hear about it when I go to area conferences," said Zulma Maciel, who works for the anti-graffiti program. "Maybe people here are reporting it more, and maybe taggers in San Francisco don't have the easy access (to freeway signs) that they do down here."



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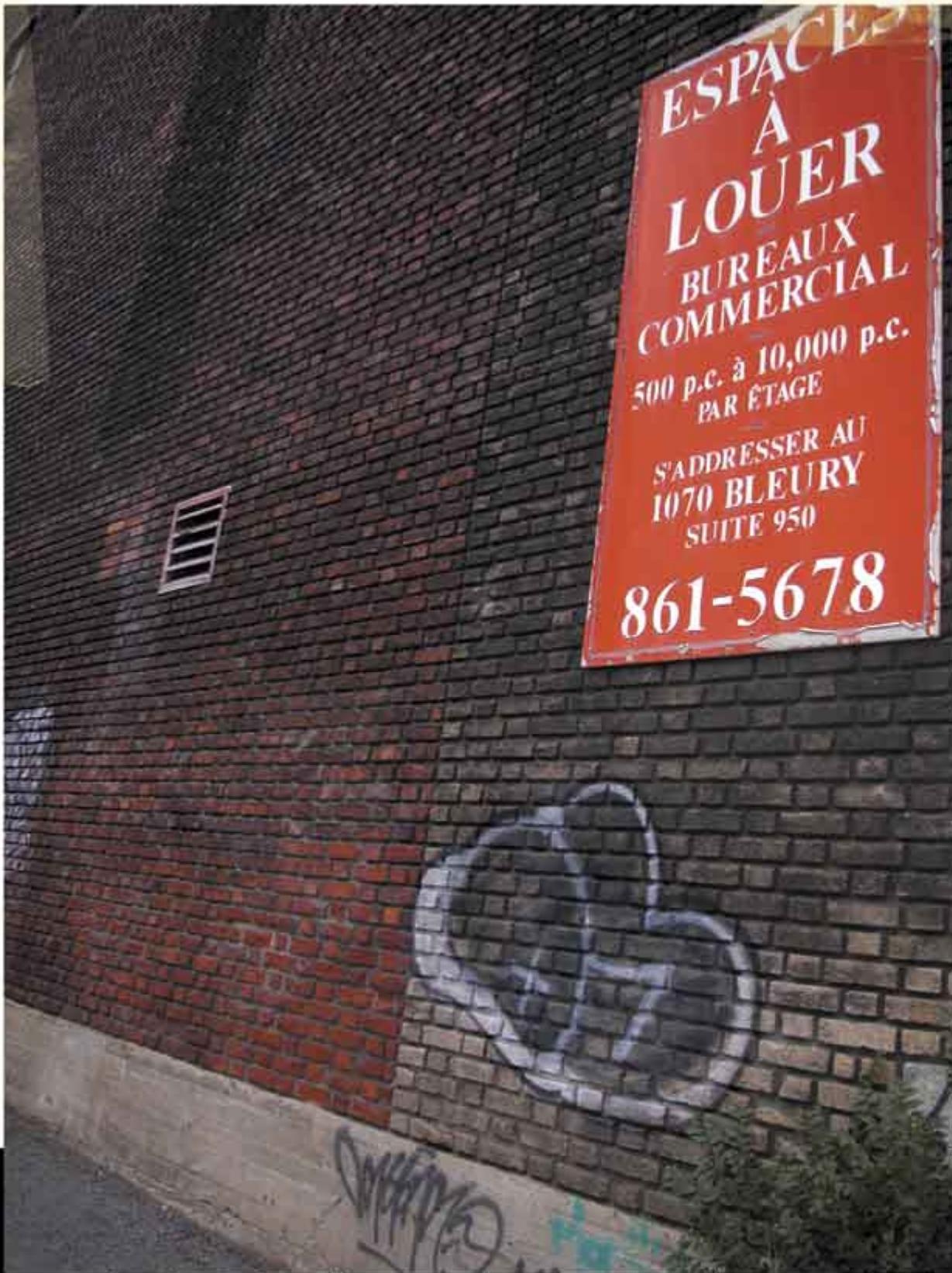
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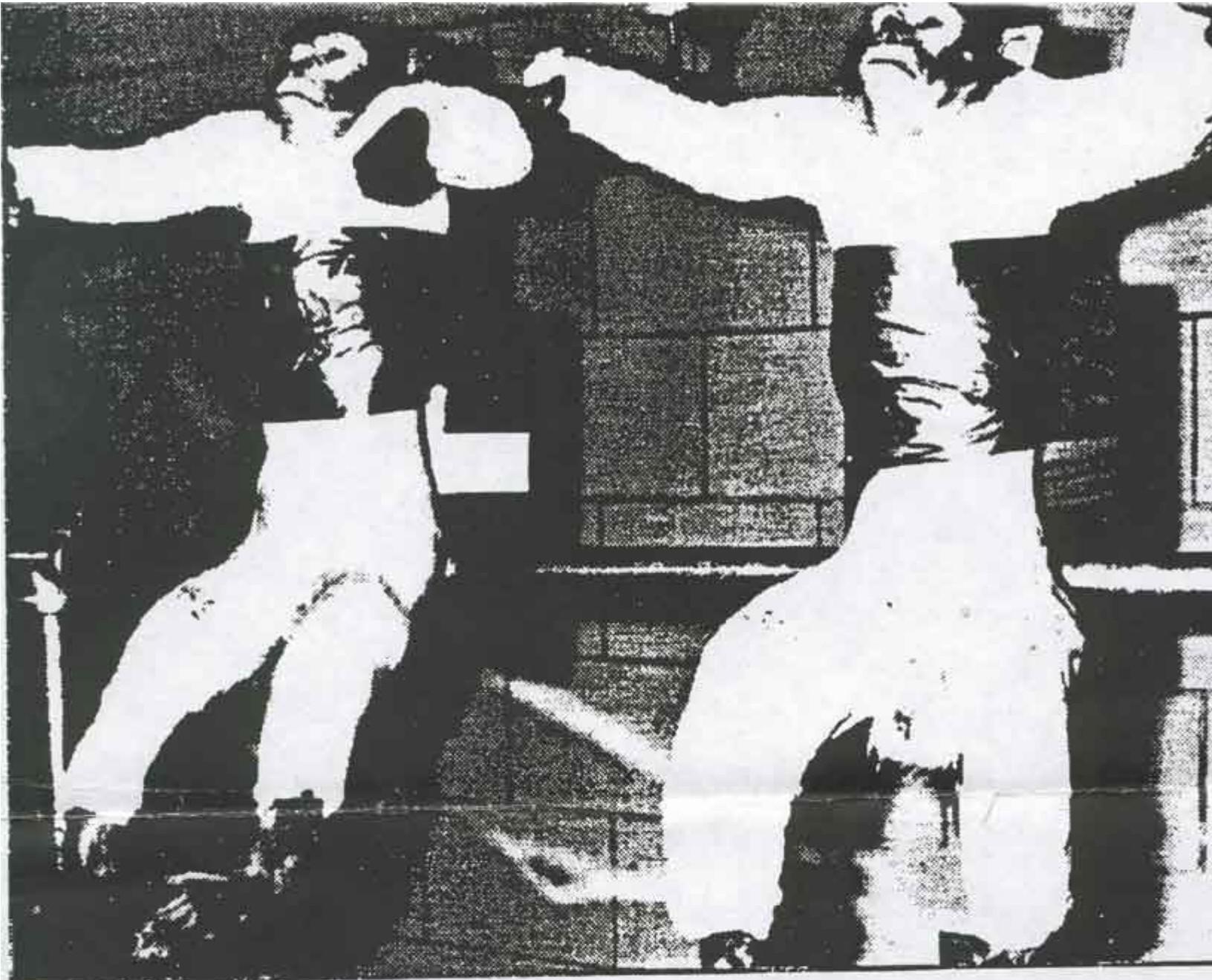


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# Big brother

Shopkeepers selling paint spray cans to minors face fines of up to \$1100 when new anti-graffiti laws come into effect on September 1. On the same day, State Rail will enforce new on-the-spot penalties for graffiti vandalism with fines doubling from \$200 to \$400.

NSW Premier Bob Carr said a campaign to alert retailers, parents and teenagers to the changed law on spray-can sales would start tomorrow. "Graffiti costs many millions of dollars a year to government, business and householders," he said.

The Government is keen to implement new and innovative approaches in our fight against graffiti. "One way is to limit access to spray paint."

He said the laws, passed late last year, were patterned on the ban on the sale of knives to minors.

The Government has distributed 11,000 anti-graffiti resource kits, including point-of-sale signage, to hardware stores, art supply stores, service stations and newsagencies.

The NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research will monitor the legislation over the next two years to ensure spray-paint cans are kept out of the hands of those who want to use them to damage our community property.

These laws are about sending a clear message that we are after the repeat offenders - and not the small business owner."

Similar spray-can provisions exist in South Australia, as well as several US jurisdictions including New York and Los Angeles.

The crackdown on selling spray cans to minors was welcomed by Brendan Store at Waverley.

Cullen of Cullen's Hardware said. "We can all do without the amount of graffiti that's going up," Mr Cullen said. "We've never sold to school kids at our shop, but I can say that the new laws have made us even more wary than before. "If there is any doubt about the person's age, we ask for proof of age."

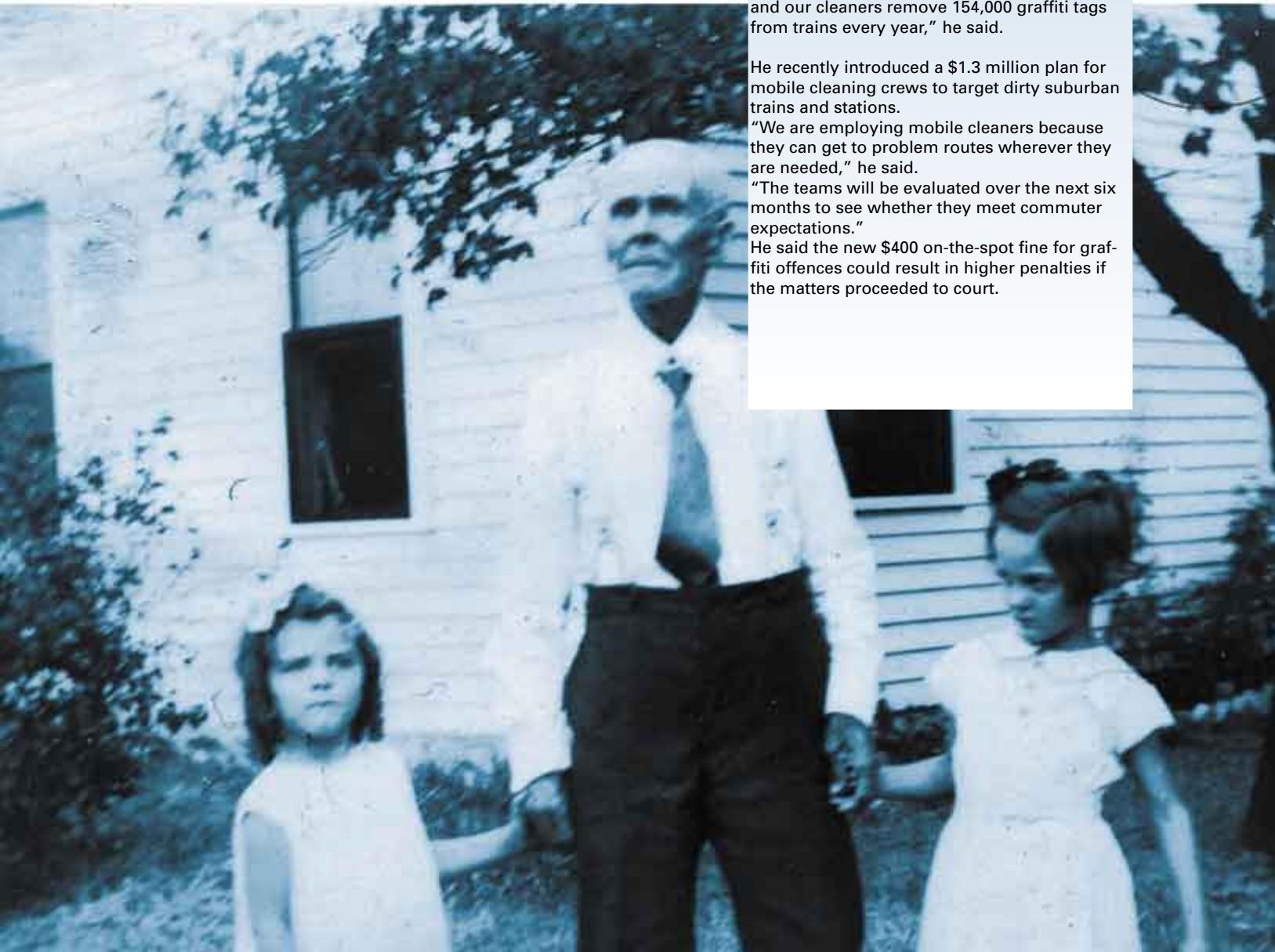
Transport Minister Michael Costa said extra transit officers were patrolling CityRail trains and stations to combat fare evasion, drunkenness, property damage and graffiti. "Graffiti removal costs State Rail \$11 million annually and our cleaners remove 154,000 graffiti tags from trains every year," he said.

He recently introduced a \$1.3 million plan for mobile cleaning crews to target dirty suburban trains and stations.

"We are employing mobile cleaners because they can get to problem routes wherever they are needed," he said.

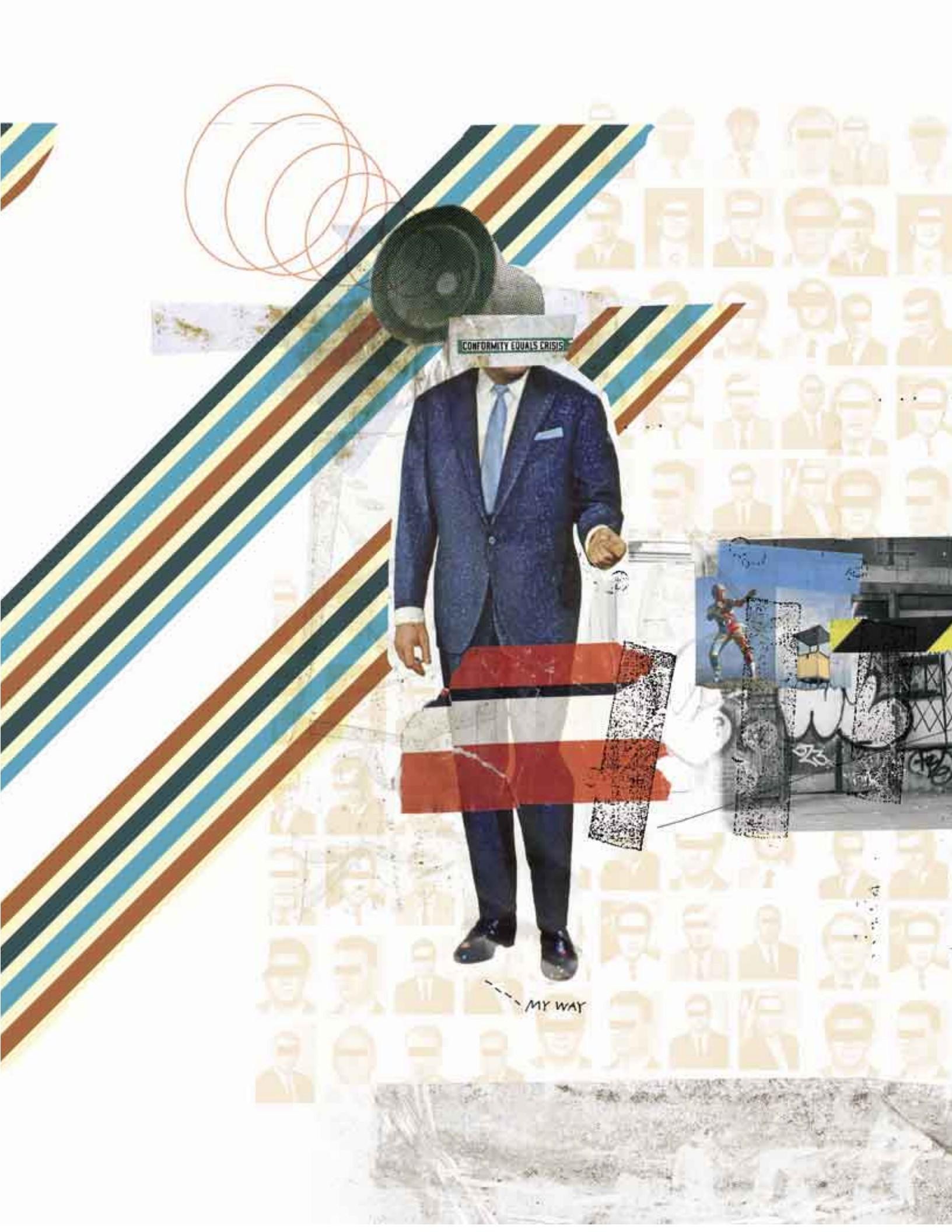
"The teams will be evaluated over the next six months to see whether they meet commuter expectations."

He said the new \$400 on-the-spot fine for graffiti offences could result in higher penalties if the matters proceeded to court.



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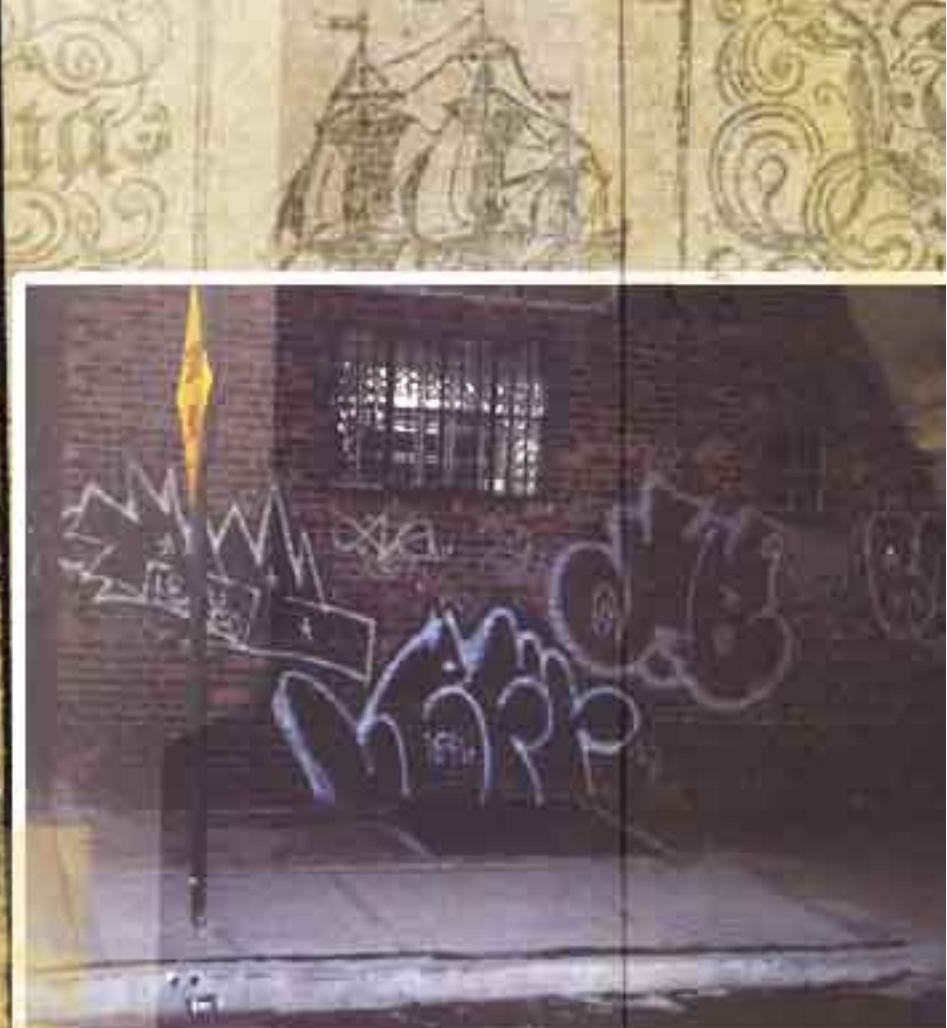
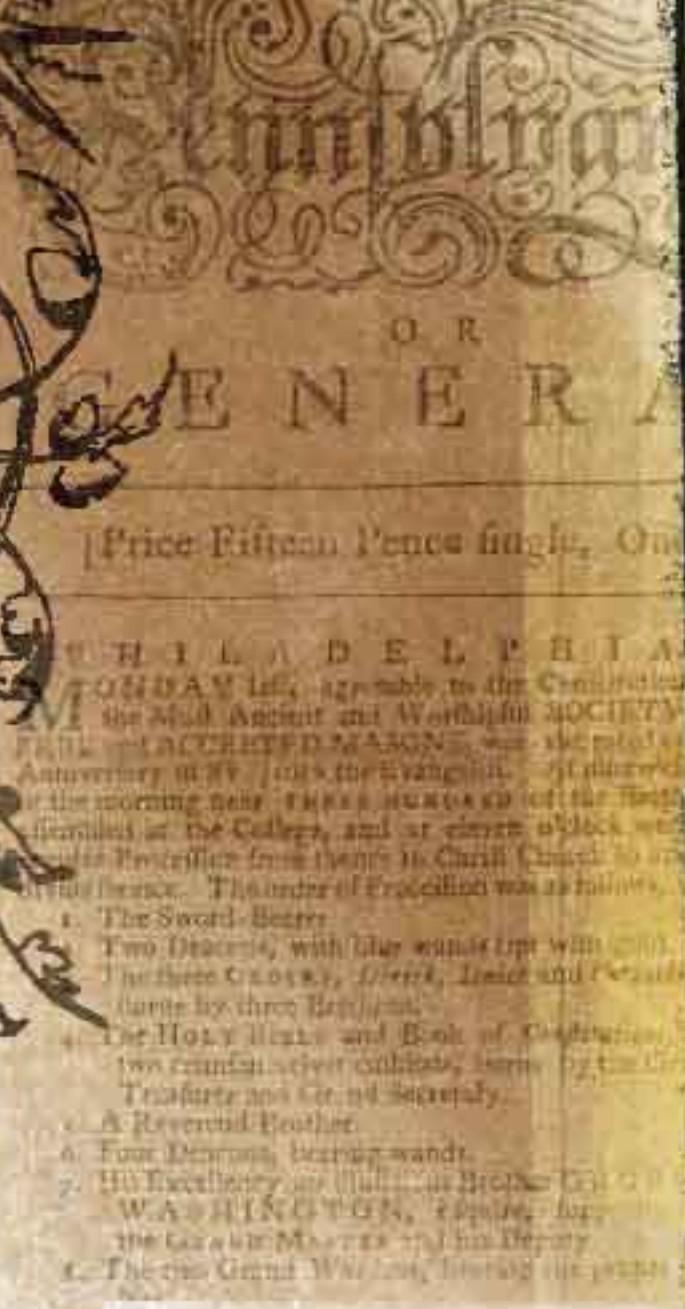
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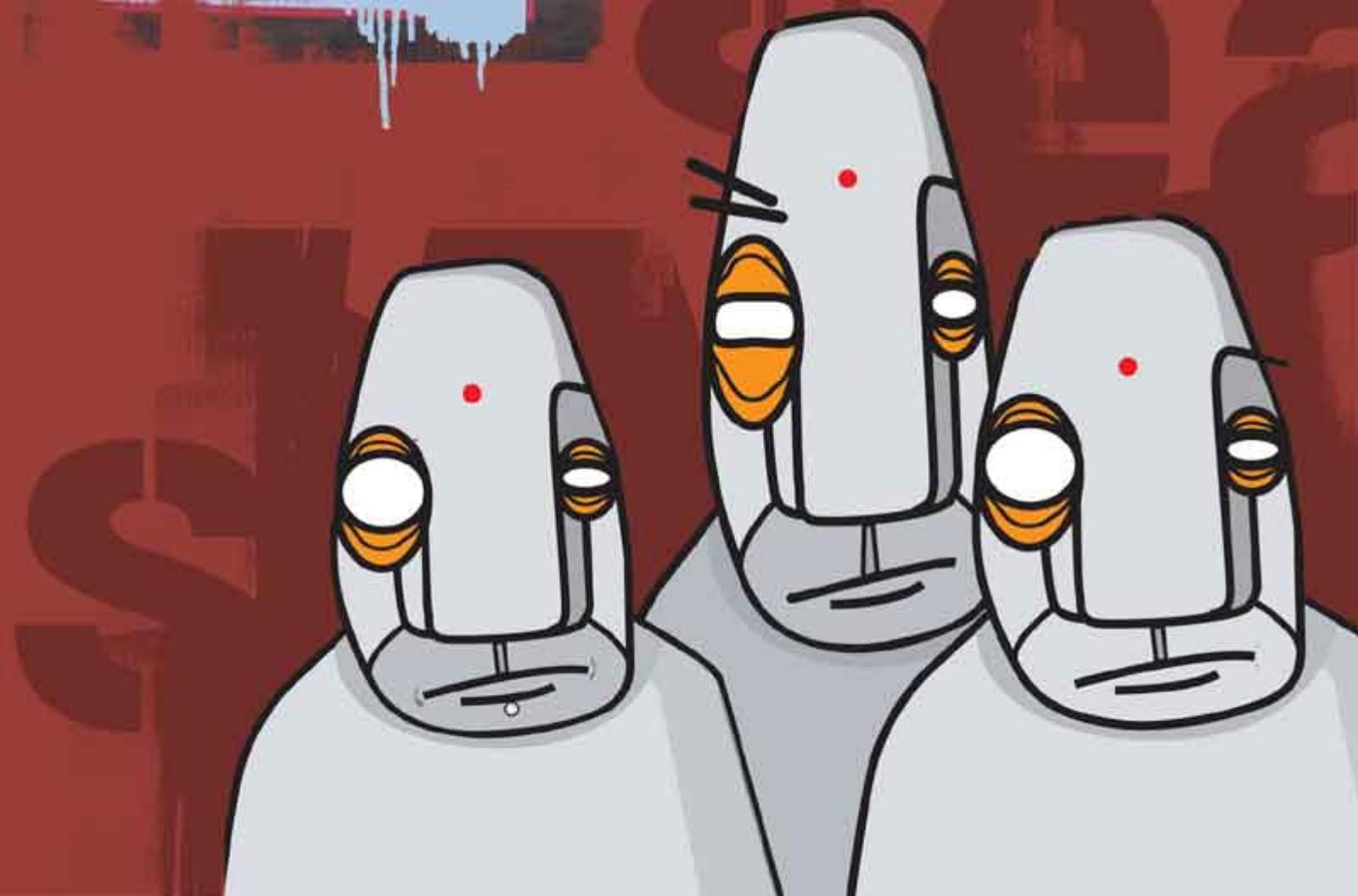
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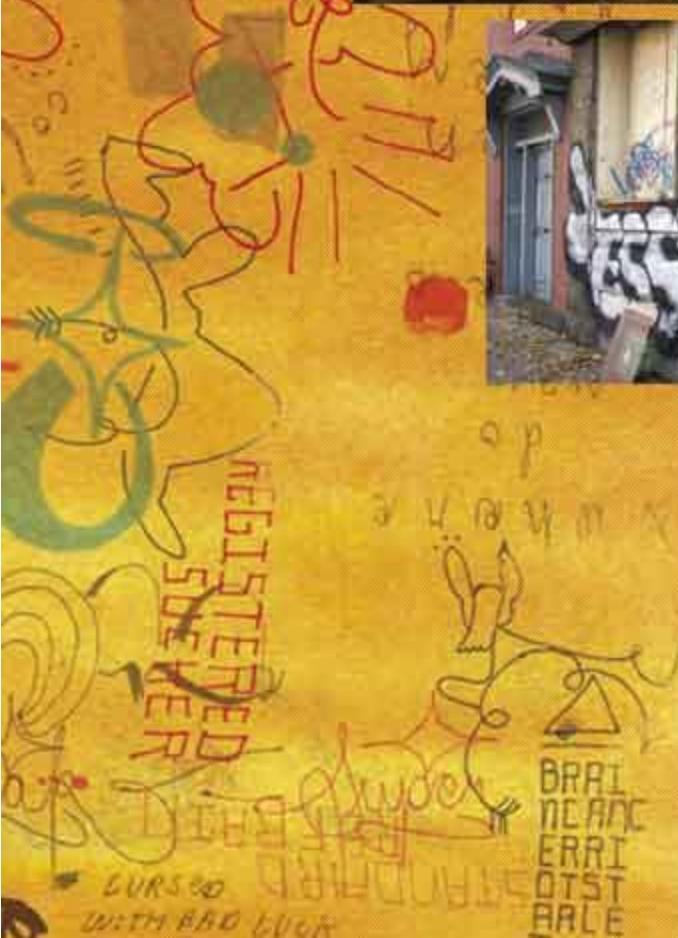


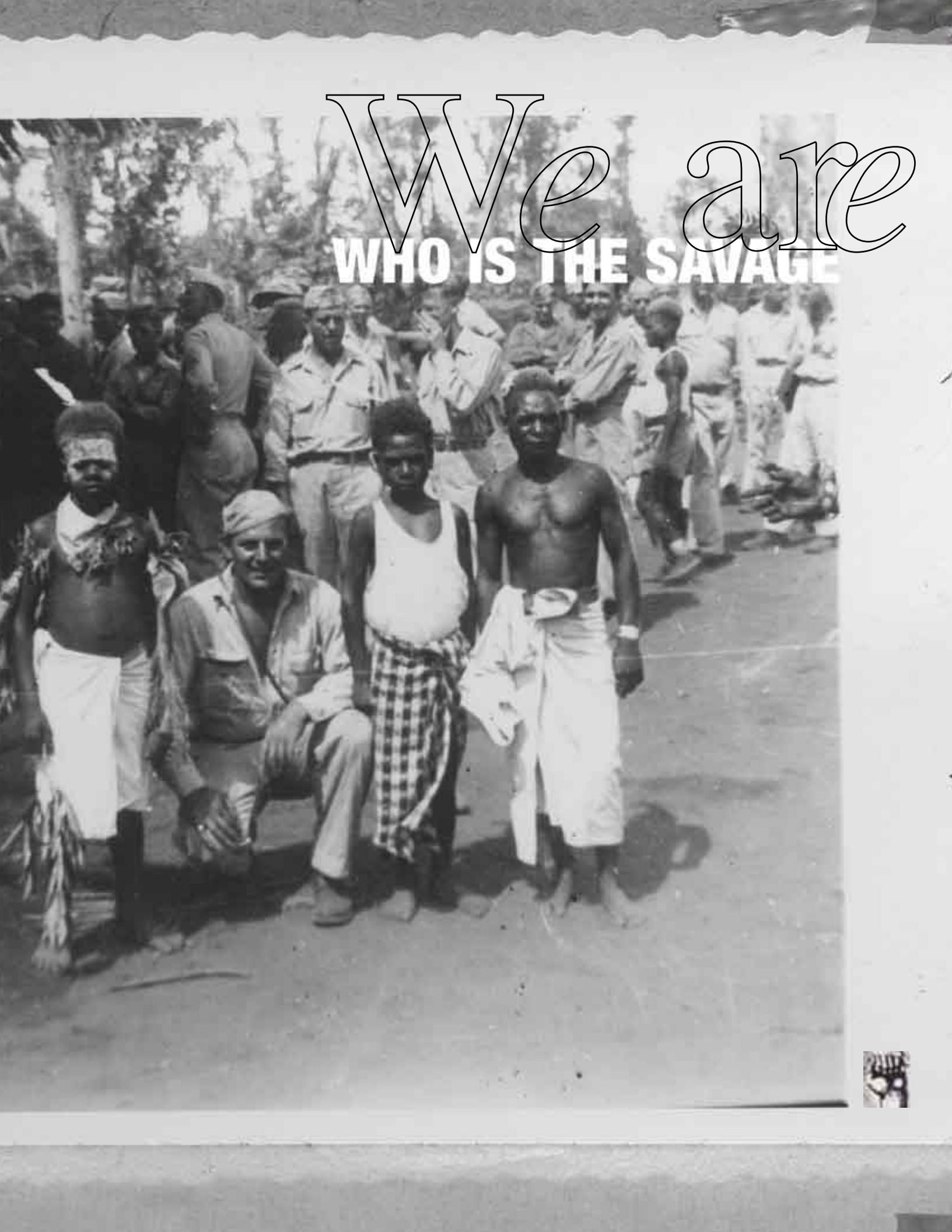
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the only justice is  
in the halls.*

*Lenny Bruce*

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## The Meaning of BassAckwards and Other Salacious Crimes

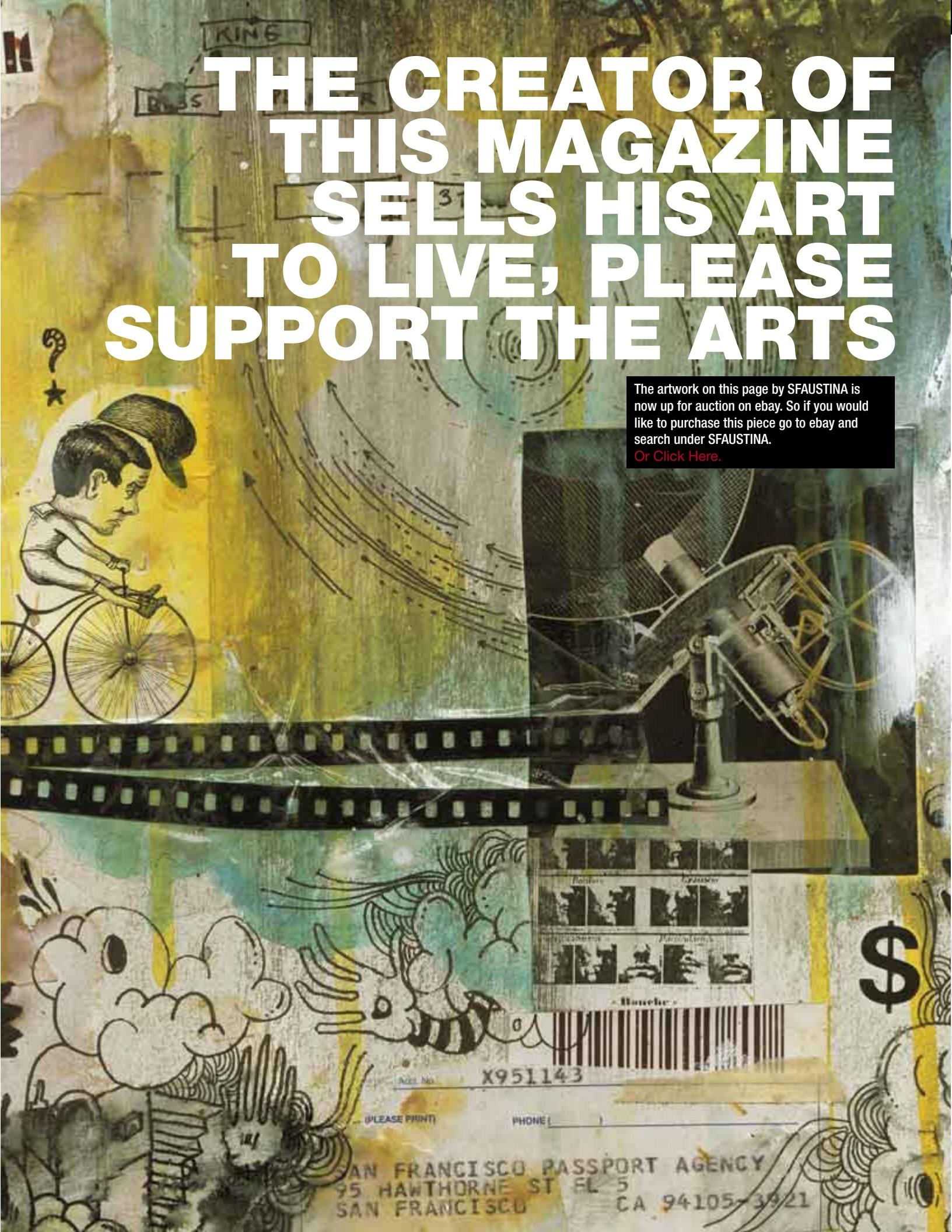
Narcotics and booze and bunnies and wouldn't you like to know... The carpet smells of Life and the ceiling of Black Death... Radiance of an afterlife... things that grow out of legs that spark High Heaven. Who are we to wonder... to question... to deny what is right, mean and vicious yet somehow real. Sew a bunny once... twice... seventeen times... she had a tattoo of a dragon laced along her spine, above her sweet ass. Raced the dragon... raced the dragon that night until morning opened the window blinds... twenty-two blades of ray spoke to us:

B  
Get up, grab some Java, some more ass, sweet... eat some eggs, over hard... hard and fast like the night. Cool, need some more booze, backwards label, backwards spin, backwards times.



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A photograph showing a close-up of a person's hand holding a black marker with a red cap. The hand is writing or drawing on a light-colored, textured surface. In the background, a person's face is visible, partially obscured by a red spray-painted outline. The overall aesthetic is gritty and artistic.

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